

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194115

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 194115 ACTION SOFIA PRAGUE NEW DELHI
BAMAKO FREETOWN MOSCOW CANBERRA SANTIAGO TEHRAN COPENHAGEN
KABUL ADDIS ABABA SUVA JAKARTA ABIDJAN PORT OF SPAIN TUNIS DAR ES
SALAAM BELGRADE PEKING INFO USUN 15 AUG

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PR, UN

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO AND THE COMMITTEE OF 24

1. UN COMMITTEE OF 24 (SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZA-
TION) PRESENTLY REVIEWING PUERTO RICO AS A NON-SELF-
GOVERNING TERRITORY. CUBA IS NOW MEMBER OF COMMITTEE AND
PLANS ON AUGUST 15 INTRODUCE RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING
THAT PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE HAVE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION
AND RECOMMENDING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT IT
RECOGNIZE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST
PARTY AND PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE PARTY (SPEAKING AT
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COMMITTEE OF 24 AUGUST 14 AND 15) AS THE TRUE REPRESENTA-
TIVES OF PUERTO RICO'S "NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT"
AND THAT THEY BE ACCORDED OBSERVER STATUS WITH RIGHT TO
PARTICIPATE WITHOUT A VOTE IN BOTH COMMITTEE OF 24

AND THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (DEPENDENT AND TRUST TERRITORIES).
WHAT IS AT ISSUE HERE IS NOT WHETHER OR NOT THESE
REPRESENTATIVES MAY BE HEARD (THEY HAVE ALWAYS HAD THAT
RIGHT AND HAVE ALREADY EXERCISED IT IN PAST SESSIONS).
THE ISSUE IS RATHER THE GRANTING OF A FORMAL OBSERVER
STATUS.

2. SINCE VOTE COULD BE AS EARLY AS MONDAY, CHIEFS
OF MISSION SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CALL, AT APPROPRIATELY

HIGH LEVEL, FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS
TO EMPHASIZE THAT WE REGARD ANY UN CONSIDERATION OF
PUERTO RICO AS FLAGRANT INTERFERENCE INTO USG INTERNAL
AFFAIRS AND AS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT.

A. PUERTO RICO EXERCISED RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION
IN APPROVING 1952 CONSTITUTION (IN 1951 REFERENDUM BY
387,016 VOTES IN FAVOR TO 119,169 AGAINST) AND
ACCORDINGLY WAS REMOVED FROM UN LIST OF NON SELF-
GOVERNING TERRITORIES BY 1953 8TH UNGA. THE US IS THERE-
FORE NO LONGER OBLIGATED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON PUERTO
RICO IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 73 (C)
OF CHARTER. 1971 26TH UNGA IMPLICITLY UPHELD THIS
DECISION BY REJECTING CUBAN EFFORT TO INSCRIBE PUERTO
RICAN ISSUE ON AGENDA.

B. COMMONWEALTH STATUS APPROVED IN 1952 WAS REAFFIRMED
IN ISLAND-WIDE REFERENDUM IN 1967. PUERTO RICANS VOTED
AS FOLLOWS ON THEIR STATUS IN RELATIONS TO US: FOR
COMMONWEALTH 60.41 PERCENT; FOR STATEHOOD 38.98 PERCENT;
FOR INDEPENDENCE .60 PERCENT. SIXTY PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE
VOTERS VOTED (707,293 OF 1,067,349 ELIGIBLE). IN AUGUST
1973 GENERAL ELECTIONS, BOYCOTTED BY PRO-INDEPENDENTISTS
PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY SUPPORTED BY CUBA,
INDEPENDENCE PARTY ONLY RECEIVED 4 PERCENT OF VOTE.
THEREFORE, PRO-INDEPENDENCE FORCES IN PUERTO RICO
REPRESENT MINUSCULE MINORITY OF PUERTO RICANS AS
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INDICATED IN VARIOUS POPULAR VOTES.

C. RECOGNITION OF A "PUERTO RICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT"
AND GRANTING OBSERVER STATUS THERETO IS UNACCEPTABLE
TO US IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT SELF-DETERMINATION
PROCESS HAS ALREADY OCCURRED IN PUERTO RICO (1953).

D. AS WAS STATED BY THE US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN
IN QUOTING PRESIDENT EISENHOWER, THE PRESIDENT WOULD
BE PREPARED TO RECOMMEND TO THE U.S. CONGRESS TO
CONSIDER FAVORABLY GRANTING INDEPENDENCE TO PUERTO
RICO IN THE EVENT OF A CLEAR MANIFESTATION BY THE
PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO THAT THEY WISH INDEPENDENCE.

E. FOR SOFIA, PRAGUE, BAMAKO, BELGRADE: IT IS POSSIBLE THAT GOVERNMENT TO WHICH YOU ARE ACCREDITED MAY AFFIRMATIVELY SUPPORT CUBAN RESOLUTION. YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO THEM THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER SUCH A VOTE AN UNFRIENDLY ACT WHICH WOULD HAVE CONSEQUENCES IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

F. FOR MOSCOW AND PEKING: YOUR HOST GOVERNMENTS ALSO LIKELY SUPPORT CUBA, AND TO THEM YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE WOULD TAKE VERY STRONG EXCEPTION TO SUCH ACTION, AND IT COULD NOT BE WITHOUT EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THEM.

G. FOR NEW DELHI, TUNIS, FREETOWN, KABUL, DJAKARTA, ABIDJAN, PORT OF SPAIN, DAR ES SALAAM: POSSIBILITY EXISTS YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT MAY ABSTAIN. YOU SHOULD INDICATE STRENGTH OF U.S. VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT, INDICATING THAT WE ARE TELLING POTENTIAL SUPPORTERS WE WOULD CONSIDER AFFIRMATIVE VOTE AS UNFRIENDLY ACT AND URGE THAT YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT VOTE AGAINST CUBAN RESOLUTION.

H. FOR THOSE ALREADY EXPECTED TO VOTE NO (DENMARK, IRAN, CHILE, FIJI, ETHIOPIA AND AUSTRALIA), PLEASE INDICATE U.S. APPRECIATION FOR THEIR EXPECTED NEGATIVE VOTE ON CUBAN RESOLUTION, MAKING SURE THEY UNDERSTAND STRENGTH OF OUR VIEWS ON SUBJECT AND THAT THEIR DELEGATIONS ARE INSTRUCTED TO HOLD TO POSITION OF VOTING AGAINST CUBAN TEXT.

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3. IF ARGUMENT SHOULD BE MADE THAT PLO AND AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAVE GAINED OBSERVER STATUS DESPITE VIEWS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND ISRAEL, POSTS MAY AT THEIR DISCRETION NOTE THESE DISTINCTIONS: (1) PR LIBERATION MOVEMENT DOES NOT EXIST ORGANIZATIONALLY, BUT APPEARS TO BE A CUBAN IDEA OF WHAT THE SOCIALIST AND THE INDEPENDENCE PARTIES SHOULD JOIN TO CREATE; (2) THE "MOVEMENT" HAS NO RECOGNITION BY A REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, WHEREAS PLO AND AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ACQUIRED THEIR OBSERVER STATUS BASED ON RECOGNITION BY ARAB LEAGUE AND OAU RESPECTIVELY. IN USING THIS ARGUMENT, IT SHOULD NOT BE IMPLIED THAT WE WILL CHANGE OUR ATTITUDE IF PUERTO RICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT FULFILLS THESE CONDITIONS. WE WOULD STILL STRONGLY OPPOSE ITS RECEIVING STATUS. YOU SHOULD LEAVE NO IMPLICATION THAT U.S. CONSIDERS PUERTO RICO APPROPRIATE ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION BY REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. KISSINGERUNQUOTE SISCO

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